

Appl. No. 10/719,786  
 Atty. Docket No. 9431  
 Amdt. dated 9/8/05  
 Reply to Office Action of 7/13/05  
 Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said first surface area being different than said second surface area.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein at least a portion of the first surface area further comprises surface aberrations.

Claim 4 (original) The tampon according to Claim 3 wherein said surface aberrations are selected from the group consisting of protuberances, depressions and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (original) The tampon according to Claim 3 wherein said surface aberrations are arranged in a pattern.

Claim 6 (original) The tampon according to Claim 5 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting of diagonal lines, straight lines, checkerboard and mixtures thereof.

Claim 7 (original) The tampon according to Claim 3 wherein said surface aberrations are evenly spaced.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said grooves are arranged in a pattern.

Claim 10 (original) The tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said pattern is selected from the group consisting of diagonal lines, straight lines, checkerboard and mixtures thereof.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The tampon according to Claim 13 wherein said grooves are evenly spaced.

Claim 12 (canceled)

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Claim 13 (currently amended): 1. ~~The tampon according to Claim 12~~ A tampon for feminine hygiene comprising an insertion end, a withdrawal end, a length, a longitudinal axis, a radial axis, and an outer surface;

said tampon being comprised of compressed fibrous material;

wherein a measured portion of said outer surface of said insertion end comprises a first surface area and a measured portion of said outer surface of said withdrawal end comprises a second surface area, said first surface area being different than said second surface area, wherein at least a portion of said first surface area comprises grooves, wherein said grooves are selected from the group consisting of longitudinal grooves, horizontal grooves and mixtures thereof, wherein said grooves have a length less than 5 mm.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The tampon according to Claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~3 wherein said grooves are longitudinal grooves.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended) The tampon according to Claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~3 wherein said grooves comprise horizontal grooves.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended) The tampon according to Claim 1 ~~3~~ wherein the fibrous material of said tampon has an essentially uniform density over a cross-section of the tampon.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The tampon according to Claim 1 ~~3~~ wherein said tampon further comprises a core which is highly compressed.

Claim 20 (currently amended) The tampon according to Claim 1 ~~3~~ wherein said withdrawal end further comprises a finger indent.